

JAY/WESTFIELD JOINT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Monday October 13, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.  
AT THE JAY/WESTFIELD SCHOOL

Board Members in attendance: Sally Rivard, Myra Alix, Jeff Morse, Loren Petzoldt, Chad Prue, Kevin Amyot

Administration/School Personnel in attendance: Kristy Ellis, Principal; Tara Morse, Book-Keeper; John Castle, Superintendent; Rebecca Velazquez, Recording Secretary.

I. At 6:49 pm the J/W School Board meeting was brought to order by Sally Rivard.

II. Agenda item A. under section III, Teacher Presentation, was deleted. Discussion item A. under section IV, Funding options for Jay/Westfield Hot Lunch program, was also deleted. Both are postponed to the next meeting when Helen Before, Food Service Agent, can be in attendance. Section V, Committee Reports, will be covered under Principal's Report.

III. Kevin Amyot moved to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2014. Myra Alix seconded the motion, and the vote carried.

IV. Financial Reports:

Action

The Principal and Bookkeeper recommend:

- A. Myra Alix moved to approve the Warrants. The motion was seconded by Chad Prue and the vote carried.
- B. Myra Alix moved to approve the September 2014 Financial Statement. The motion was seconded by Chad Prue and the vote carried.

The Bookkeeper recommends:

- A. Sally Rivard and Jeff Morse signed the Jay/Westfield Joint School District and Jay Town School District audit commitment letters from June 30, 2011 and 2012 for Gene A. Besaw & Associates.

Discussion

- A. Funding options for Jay/Westfield Hot Lunch program will be discussed next meeting.
- B. Early considerations for beginning budget planning include the development of a full day school-based pre-school program and the potential loss of Consolidated Title 1 Funds for the first ten hours that fund a majority of the current program. The Board must take this into account as they move forward in their discussion of Early Education and the budget as a whole. The Board discussed the pros and cons of bringing a full day Pre-K in house and agreed that there could be no additional staffing. A current teacher could be given a Provisional Early Education certificate, as long as he/she is committed to receiving their license. Jeff Morse and Kristy Ellis will look further into outfitting school buses for 3 and 4 year olds. Hot lunches are already available, which would help to add

hours onto the program. Additional hours over the compulsory 10 will make make the program eligible for Title Funds.

Other early considerations for Budget Planning include the decrease in students expected when the current 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes graduate and how that will inflate the per student cost. Each pre-school student would count as 0.46, helping to offset that rise in cost.

The Board considered opening program up to Troy, but agreed that there would not be room for all of their early education students. Still, a knowledge of what Troy decides, moving forward, will be important.

#### V. Principal's Report

##### Information:

Kristy Ellis is working with Paul LeGrand on the school's current water problem – the most recent test and subsequent ones have found coliform and the school is currently on boiler notice. Consecutive tests will be run this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, with results in on Friday.

Kristy Ellis pointed out that the hit is coming from the well itself. Ground water contamination is suspected. Kevin Amyot recommended speaking to his colleague, Don Bolio. Next steps are to shock and camera the well. Chlorination will continue.

#### VI. Superintendent's Report

##### Information:

The Superintendent reports that Central Office Assessment may need to centralize Special Education and maintain shared Triple E services.

John Castle elaborated on the changes coming to Early Education in the state. The Supervisory Union has requested a waiver from the Secretary of Education to compensate for the withdrawal of Title Funds.

John Castle will be presenting a budget to the Supervisory Union board in November, to be passed in December. This does not give much lead time for the local school board's own budget. He recommended that the Board should have a persuasion as to what sort of Early Education program they want to pursue by next month's meeting.

The Superintendent expressed concern about current staff numbers not being sustainable as enrollment decreases. He commended the school on its success with Team Teaching and Responsive Classroom, but stressed that both need numbers to work. He stressed that there needs to be a serious look at staffing, enrollment and the budget in consideration of the potential loss of Title Funds and, possibly, small school grants.

##### Discussion:

Kristy Ellis would prefer in-house Special Education, but is unclear how the Triple E Assessment would affect local allocation of funds.

The Board discusses the idea of tuitioning 10 – 15 students to fill smaller grades. There has been interest from neighboring towns' parents. All agree that this would help with numbers and revenue, but are unclear on how to establish rules for application and limited enrollment. John Castle will get the most accurate information about special needs cost responsibility as it applies to tuitioned students. The idea is shelved in favor of a school-based Pre-K.

The Board stresses that no further staffing could be allocated to a preschool program. A current teacher could be given a provisional Early Education certificate if they commit to earning their license. Kristy Ellis requests permission to speak with her staff about these possibilities. The Board is concerned that this is premature, but permission is granted.

VIII. Unfinished/New/Other Business:

Action

- A. Jeff Morse motioned to have principal interview and hire a special education paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2015 school year. This staff addition will be 100% state reimbursed. Kevin Amyot seconded the motion and the vote carries.
- B. John Castle informs Board that advertising bid specs for the 2016 oil purchase is not necessary. The principle needs only to call three vendors. Loren Petzoldt motioned to have principle call three vendors. Jeff Morse seconded the motion and the vote carries. Kristy Ellis offers to call five: Fred's Plumbing and Heating, Barnetts Inc, Oil Supply Corp and Desjarlais Fuel.

IX. Future Agenda Items/Date for Next Board Meeting:

Sally Rivard followed up on last meeting's proposal of an email of aggregated thoughts to be sent to State government expressing the School Board's concerns. John Castle recommended waiting to see what evolves in legislation so that a more specific response can be crafted, with language and messaging help from the Supervisory Union.

November 11, 2014 is confirmed by all as the next Board Meeting date.

X. Executive Session: Jeff Morse moved to enter executive session and invites Tara Morse, John Castle, Kristy Ellis and Rebecca Velazquez to stay. Loren Petzoldt seconded the motion, and the vote carried.

Personnel request discussed.

Action:

Jeff Morse moved to offer five additional paid days to Ruth Klansky. They can be used retroactively or for future need and do not set a precedent, as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Chad Prue moved to exit executive session at 8:19. Jeff Morse seconded the motion. Vote carried.

XI. Adjourn : Jeff Morse motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:57. Myra Alix seconded the motion. Vote carried.

Meetings:

Group	Day	Date	Time	Location
NCSU Policy Com.	Thursday	October 16	5:30pm	NCSU A205
NCSU Exec. Com	Thursday	October 16	6:30pm	NCSU A209
Jay/Westfield School Board	Tuesday	Nov. 11	6:00 p.m.	School

